

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038053

62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:GBROBERTS:LRR

APPROVED BY EA - PHILIP C. HABIB

S/S - PSHANKLE

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R 200155Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038053

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: THAI GOVERNMENT FORMATION

1. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT REPORTS THAT SENI MAY ENCOUNTER
SERIOUS MILITARY OPPOSITION TO HIS EFFORTS TO FORM A GOVERN-
MENT, WE ASSUME THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE BANGKOK DIPLOMATIC
MISSION ARE FOLLOWING A STRICT HANDS-OFF POLICY TOWARD THE
CURRENT CABINET FORMATION PROCESS IN THAILAND. SPECIFICALLY,
WE TRUST THAT NO OFFICIAL AMERICANS WOULD UNINTENTIONALLY
OR OTHERWISE PASS SIGNALS TO THEIR THAI CONTACTS WITHOUT
YOUR KNOWLEDGE THAT THE U.S. WOULD FAVOR A RETURN TO
MILITARY RULE IN THAILAND.

2. OUR POLICY IS THAT THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT
IS SOMETHING FOR THE THAIS THEMSELVES TO WORK OUT. THEY
SHOULD DO THIS COMPLETELY ON THEIR OWN AND SHOULD NOT
PROCEED UNDER ANY FALSE ASSUMPTIONS THAT WE WOULD PARTI-
CULARLY FAVOR A RETURN TO THE OLD REGIME. IF A MILITARY
DOMINATED GOVERNMENT SHOULD EMERGE NATURALLY FROM THE
GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS, WE WILL OF COURSE SEEK GOOD
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PAGE 02 STATE 038053

WORKING RELATIONS WITH IT, BUT WE WILL DO EXACTLY THE SAME

THING IF A CIVILIAN DOMINATED OR A JOINT MILITARY-CIVILIAN
CABINET SHOULD COME TO PASS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE038053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GBROBERTS:LRR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750059-1038
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750227/aaaaaxyk.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI GOVERNMENT FORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, TH
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006